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HISTORY

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MGS

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Foreword

Maidstone Grammar School has a long and proud history, with close links to the Maidstone Borough since it came into being in 1549. We have researched various sources and accounts to attempt to give a visually appealing and informative snapshot of the school's history.

The resulting findings have been put together by the small group of committed students named below, during the Extended Learning Week 24-28 June 2013. We have tried wherever possible to verify the enclosed information however, we apologise if there are any inaccuracies, and would very much appreciate being told so that this record of MGS can be updated. We see this as an ongoing project and hope that people will come forward with more pictures, tales, information, names etc which can be incorporated to help weave together the school's rich history.

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Graham Walker	History Teacher at MGS 1981 to present



We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following for giving us invaluable help in finding and presenting our material:

Elizabeth Finn	Collections Development Officer, Maidstone Library
Richard Ratcliffe	President of Old Maidstonians
Catherine Walker	IT Technician MGS
Dr Anthony Webb	School Archivist and former Head of History/Deputy Head at MGS

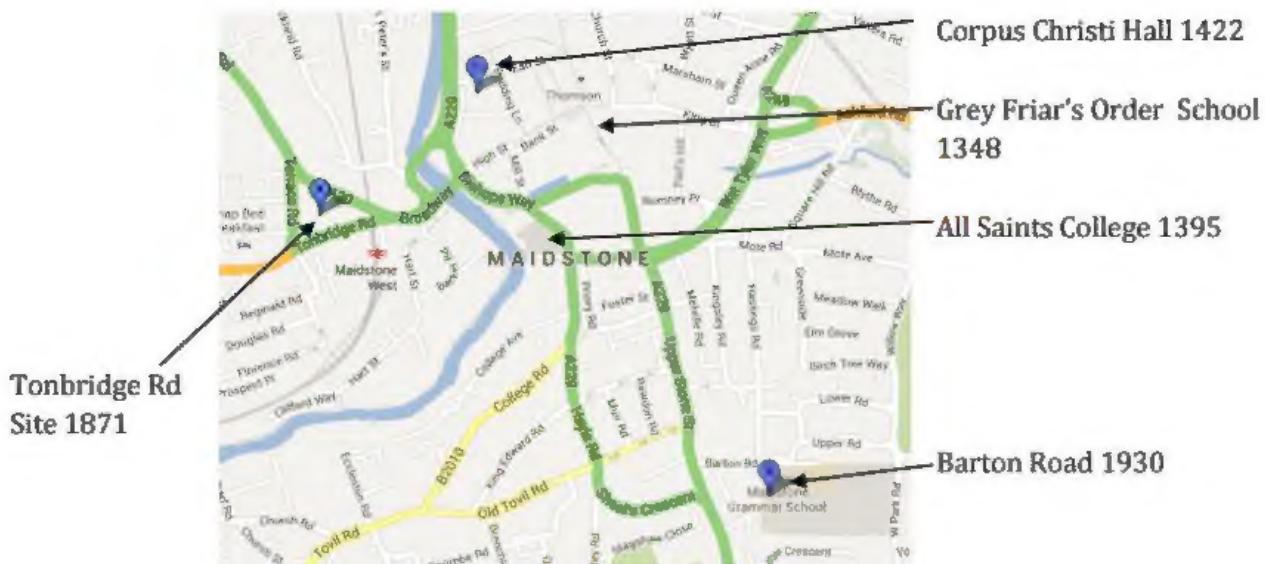
Introduction

Maidstone Grammar School officially dates back to 1549 when Maidstone was granted its first Charter. It has had an unbroken existence, apart from a brief interruption 1554-8 due to Maidstone's connection with Sir Thomas Whyatt's Rebellion against Queen Mary and her attempt to re-introduce Catholicism.

However, the school can be linked back to a Grey Friar's Order School since 1348, housed at the top of Gabriels Hill which then moved in the 1390's to the All Saints College attached to the Church. In the early 15th Century the school moved to the newly built Corpus Christi Hall at the bottom of Earl Street, part of which still exists today.

In 1871 the school moved to a site on the Tonbridge Road, before finally ending up at its current location in 1930 in Barton Road.

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What is in a name? The title 'Grammar School' comes from the aim of teaching grammar (Latin), the language of the Middle Ages.

Timeline

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
1348	School recorded in the Old Grey Friars Building at the top of Gabriels Hill
About 1395	The school moved to the College of All Saints
1422	The Guild or Fraternity of Corpus Christi was founded and the school moved to the Hall
1547	The government of Edward VI began dissolving the Colleges (All Saints) and Guilds (Corpus Christi) of the country as the Protestant Reformation developed
1549	The Corpus Christi Hall, now belonging to the Crown was sold to the town of Maidstone for £200 to found a Grammar School
1554-58	Maidstone's sympathy with the rebellion of Sir Thomas Whyatt of Allington Castle caused the cancellation of Maidstone's recent Charter and therefore the school was temporarily closed down
1559	The Catholic Queen Mary died in 1558 to be succeeded by her half sister Elizabeth and England became Protestant again. The second Charter was granted to the town and the school resumed its existence, unbroken to the present day
June 1648	A major battle was fought just a few hundred yards away from the Corpus Christi Hall along Week Street and Gabriel Hill. Over 400 men were killed as Lord Fairfax recaptured the town for the Parliamentarians during the second phase of the English Civil War
1691	The infamous Headmaster John Law MA killed a local man in an Ale House; he was found guilty of manslaughter and was sentenced to excommunication and later to be mutilated, but he escaped and disappeared!
1818	The newly constituted Charity Commissioners carried out a full enquiry into the condition of the school. There were only 10 day boys and 15 borders
1869	Endowed Schools Act - a formal entrance test and the curriculum was widened to include at least one Modern Language and Natural Science
1871	The school moved from Corpus Christi Hall to a new sight on the Tonbridge Road
1884	Old Maidstonian Society was formed

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1885	The Maidstonian Magazines started
1886	Maidstone Girls Grammar School was founded, our sister foundation sharing the same Governing Body
1895	The school started its association with the recently formed Kent County Council
1899	The House System started with 3 houses: School, East Borough and West Borough dependent on where the students lived
1899	The first Physics Laboratory was established
1905	The first Woodwork Shop was established
1906	The Cadet Corps was inaugurated
1908	Cadet Corps became the Officer Training Corps
1908	The words to the School Song (6 verses of it, we currently sing verse 1 and 5!) were written by the then Headmaster Reverend A C Duffield and set to music by the music master Dr Henniker
1913	The first layman Headmaster, Mr Walter Cross, was appointed
1913	The Junior School came into existence, moving to Brunswick House in 1922
1914	The number of boys had increased from 97 to 139
1922	Annual Shakespeare Drama Productions started
1924	Rugger replaced Soccer in the Easter Term
1930	Moved to Barton Road (the drainpipes with 1929 cast were ordered too early!); Lord Cornwallis formerly opened the present building in July 1930
1936	Increasing University successes secured MGS's admission to the Headmaster's Conference of Public Schools
1938-39	The Air Raid Shelter; zigzag passages which went under the Court and school field. There was room for over 300 so that lessons could continue underground
13 Sept 1940	Bombs fell around the school
1945	School fees were abolished, though only one quarter were fee paying by the end
1949	Field Marshall Montgomery was Guest of Honour at our Speech Day
1949	A Chronicle Play 'One Day We Shall Remember' was written by a History Teacher (Mr G B Phillips), who gave 46 years of service to the school, to commemorate the 400 th Anniversary
1950	The Science Labs (current rooms 20-21 plus 30-31 and Physics Prep Room) were built onto the far cloisters into the quadrangle
1953	A School Inspection (first one since 1934), states 610 boys on roll 'there is an excellent spirit amongst the boys and a real pride in the community to which they belong the Headmaster and the Staff can be proud of their success in the creation of a civilised and virile community'
1956	The Headmaster, Mr W A Claydon, was awarded a CBE in the New Years Honours List
1960	The South Block (current library, small Hall, room 42-49, English Office, Rm 60) was opened
1965	Over 800 students now at the school
1973	The Thameside Scheme was introduced, so students now came at 13 rather than 11
1980	The Maidstonian was published annually rather than twice a year
1981	New building (Rooms 50-59, the Technology Block) was built and opened by Sir Rhodes Boyson PC
1981	An extra floor was added above the Gym (Upper Staff Room and Lab 32)
1990	The school was used as a film set for the popular TV series set in the 1950s 'The Darling Buds of May' starring David Jason and Catherine Zeta Jones. The old canteen was used for the Electrical Warehouse and the Lower Staff Room as the Tax office

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1990s	The school was used to film 2 episodes of Art Attack using the school field and pavilion
1993	The school returned to taking Year 7s increasing the school roll eventually from 800 to over 1200
1993	The disused Fives Courts (Fives is a game like squash but played with a glove on the hand instead of a racquet) were converted into three classrooms (Rooms 90-92)
1993	Mobile huts were placed at the back of the Headmaster's garden to cope with the growing numbers of students (Rooms 86-89?)
2000	James Burke opened the new reception
2005	A new Canteen and Maths/History/Art Block was built
2007	House System was re-introduced: 6 houses: Challenger (Purple), Churchill (Yellow), Endeavour (Red), Hurricane (Green), Invincible (Blue), Spitfire (White).
2010	The Applied Learning Centre was built
2011	The Sixth Form and Food Technology was built

Section 1: The Different School Sites

A. Corpus Christi Hall 1549-1871

How and when was it founded as a Grammar school?

In 1422 the Guild or Fraternity of Corpus Christi was founded in Maidstone. At this time it had the use of a chantry in the north chancel of All Saints' Church, and consisted of 2 wardens, 4 chaplains and a number of churchmen, gentry and townsmen. The four main characteristics of this building were that of the hall, refectory, chapel and cloisters. In 1547 the Government of Edward VI continued Henry VIII's Reformation and began the dissolution of the Colleges and Guilds of the country. Corpus Christi Guild was suppressed and its property was handed over to the Crown. In 1549 on behalf of the young King Edward VI, Protector Somerset sold the building to the town of Maidstone for £200 to house a Grammar School. The town's sympathy with the 1554 Protestant Rebellion of Sir Thomas Whyatt of Allington Castle caused the forfeiture of Maidstone's recently granted charter, and with it the right to run a school, causing a temporary closure. The Catholic Queen Mary was succeeded by her half-sister, Elizabeth in 1558 and England became Protestant again. She granted Maidstone's Second Charter and the school resumed its existence, unbroken to the present day.

The Corpus Christi Hall: What is it like?

At this present moment in time, only the refectory remains of the Corpus Christi Hall, which once thrived in the days when the school was present here; it is a Grade 2 listed building, and currently houses the offices of the Avis Rent-a-Cars!

The interior of the Corpus Christi Hall maintains some of its great character, consisting of two crown posts with chamfered tie beams, a passage with 5 stone arches, and traces of a wooden partition that originally divided the hall into two.



Corpus Christi Hall today

The school hours taken from the 1650 Orders:

The school hours were longer than the present ones! Initially they were fragmented into am and pm. In the morning the school hours were from 7am until 11am, and 1pm to 5pm (except Thursdays and

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Saturdays, which were 1 – 3pm). Also on Sunday students were expected to attend a Church Service at All Saints.

Other extracts from the 1650 set of orders:

4. *That dureinge the howers of schoolinge the Master shall continue in the Schoole teachinge and apposeing his schollers in Grammer, Humanity, Poetery, Rhetoricke and in such kind of learneinge and authors both in Latine and Greeke tongues as are usually taught in free schooles. ...*
14. *That noe Scholler bee admitted into the Schoole untill hee can perfectlie read in any common English Booke and in some measure write.*
15. *That noe Scholler bee admitted into the Schoole who for his evill demeanour hath beene expelled from any other Schoole, if hee remaine incorrigable. ...*
17. *That if any Scholler shalbee debauch or lewd of behaviour or through obstinacy incorrigible and will not amend or shall assault, strike or threaten, or boldly or impudently affront the Master or Usher, or shalbee a common fighter or quarreller, hee shalbee forthwith expelled from the Schoole and not received againe without the allowance of a Courte of Burghmote.*
18. *That every Scholler beinge the Child of a freeman of this Towne shall pay to the Common Box of the Schoole at his admission sixpence, and every other Scholloer twelve pence, to bee imployed for the buyinge and maintayneinge of common Bookes needfull in the Schoole, as an English Bible in folio, Dictionaries and the like. ...*
20. *That the Master shall have his house and wages dureinge his life (if hee shall soe longe continue Schoolmaster of the said Schoole) not being convicted of some notable crime, as to bee a gamester, a haunter of alehouses, inns or taverns, prophane in language or life, unsound in religion, excessive or immodest in haire or habite, negligent in the duties of his place, or that will not conforme to the good and wholesome Orders and constitucions hereby made...*

Though it must be stated that this set of rules was drawn up in 1650 at the beginning of the Puritan Commonwealth.



Painting of Corpus Christi Hall, 1780 by Old Maidstonian William Alexander

In 1818 a Chantry Commissioner's report stated there were 10 day boys and 15 borders.

MGS Rules (1844)

- ❖ Church of England Prayers every morning.
- ❖ Begin at 7am, and end the school day at 5pm.

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- ❖ Lessons were: Grammar Humanity, Poetry, Rhetoric, the Latin and Greek Languages, Mathematics, Algebra, Arithmetic, Reading, Writing, History, Geography, and Use of The Globes.
- ❖ The Holidays were: The midsummer holidays (four weeks from the 3rd Thursday of June) and the Christmas Holidays (four weeks from the 3rd Thursday of December).
- ❖ If the Headmaster is critically injured or temporarily disabled, the deputy headmaster can take charge of the school.
- ❖ If an epidemic spreads through the school, however dangerous, the Headmaster can continue tutoring.
- ❖ You may not embark unless the Headmaster has agreed to teach you with your parents/guardians.
- ❖ You may not embark unless you can read and write in English to any measure.
- ❖ You may not embark if you have previously been expelled from any school.
- ❖ If you are absent during school hours, a tutor will visit your home.
- ❖ If you are violently behaved or ill mannered to any of your fellow pupils or tutors, you will be expelled.
- ❖ You may not embark unless you have paid two pounds and six shillings.
- ❖ All must attend Church.
- ❖ The Headmaster has full power over the school houses.
- ❖ The Headmaster's usher must follow the rules as well.
- ❖ Every early June the Ministers may inspect the school if they wish, and they can do it without warning.

Why did they move from this school in 1871?

In the mid 19th century the search for a new site started. The first reason according to Streatfeild's History (1915) was that an increasing number of boys were joining the school, because at this time, there was a growing demand for education. The school currently had about 46 day students and 8 borders. Another reason was the old site was seen as a place of commercial value being close to the river, and surrounded by factories, therefore the land could be sold at a reasonable price and another plot of more suitable land be purchased. Revenue of £3,500 was raised for the move. The plot on the Tonbridge Road was more away from the hustle and bustle of the busy area in which Corpus Christi was situated. Mr Elton's Report of 1869 appears to contradict Streatfeild's view by stating students number were decreasing and stresses concerns about the location as sailors and bargemen as well as other 'undesirables' regularly walked through the playground. Extracts from Mr Elton's School Report 1866-69 reads like an early Ofsted Report!

... The schoolhouse is large enough for the present number of boys, which is decreasing. The site is very bad, the house being near the river and surrounded by factories. The playground abuts on the public quay, frequented by sailors and bargemen. ... It is said that the disadvantages of the situation deter many parents from sending boys to the school. Subscriptions have already been received for building a new schoolhouse, and as the old site will be very valuable for commercial purposes, it is thought that a sufficient fund can be raised. The mayor and corporation are anxious to promote in every way the interests of the school, which is not well supported by the inhabitants in general, though the fees for instruction are small.

I examined several of the classes in their school work. The two or three elder boys construed Cicero, Virgil, and Greek Testament fairly, but the remainder of the highest class did not do so well. I may add that the pronunciation of Latin and Greek was remarkably bad throughout the school. The junior boys did not succeed very well in their classical examination, although there were some whose grammatical knowledge was good. In the upper class the Latin prose was defective. The boys are not practised in Latin

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verse composition, which may account for their defective pronunciation. In modern subjects the work was more satisfactory. The upper class answered a hard set of questions in arithmetic very well. In history and geography the younger boys especially passed a good examination, and showed an unusual interest in the subjects. The elder boys did not show a sufficiently accurate knowledge of English history.

... The inhabitants of Maidstone are not likely to support a purely classical school, but if the course of instruction were somewhat changed, this grammar school would have a good chance of prosperity. ... The school has suffered very much from the loss of its intended endowment as well as from its unfavourable situation; it is at present in an unsatisfactory condition, but might be made into a good town school.

In 1866 there were 46 day scholars between 10-16 years old and 8 borders, all in the Headmaster's house.



The Staff and Pupils 1866

B. Tonbridge Road 1871 - 1930

This period coincided with great changes in education. It was the early days of central government involvement initially encouraging, and then enforcing through legislation, a wider curriculum with more emphasis on science, technology and physical training. Both the School Governors and the Kent Education Committee were anxious to acquire larger buildings and bigger playing fields, and then Alderman George Foster Clark made a gift of land in Barton Road in 1924, so plans for a move to our 5th site were put in place.



The Tonbridge Road School

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Photographs of classrooms at Tonbridge Road:

Dining Hall



History Classroom



Woodwork Shop



Physics Lab



Maidstone Grammar School and the Combined Cadet Force

The CCF has been a part of MGS's history for over 100 years. It was first officially introduced under the name of 'The Cadet Corps' on 25th January 1906. There were initially sixty names on the roll and the War Office lent the Corps twelve service rifles and forty-five carbines. Since then the name has changed many a time until 1948 when it became known as the Combined Cadet Force or 'CCF' for short.



The Cadet Corps, July 1906



Old School PE Lesson (Tonbridge Road)

Why Did MGS Move From Tonbridge Road to Barton Road?

MGS moved from its home of 60 years at Tonbridge Road to a new home at the top of Barton Road. When the new Headmaster Mr A J Woolgar started in 1925 he knew that a grander space was needed, to cope with the growing number of pupils, particularly the need for more playing fields.

The School Song

While at the Tonbridge Site the Old Maidstonians Society, the Maidstonian Magazine and the School Song all came into being. The words of the latter (6 verses of it, we currently sing verse 1 and 5!) were written by the then Headmaster Reverend A C Duffield and set to music by the music master Dr Henniker.

The song as it is today (English):	Stan3a Number:	The song as it is today (Latin):	Stan3a Number:
Let us sing together of our school, Situated in the town of Maidstone, And founded in the reign of King Edward, so many long years ago	stan3a 1	Scholam concinnamus nostram Maidstonensi urbe impostam, Rege Eaduardo ante hos tam Longos annos conditam	stan3a 1
<i>Let us rejoice, Maidstonians, and Let us uphold with praises our School, which we pray may flourish For ever.</i>	chorus	<i>Maidstonenses gaudeamus Laudibus et effe ramus Scholam nostram quae oramus Sempiterna floreat</i>	chorus
Perhaps one day it will be pleasant, For us to remember, and to have Lived worthy of those men whom we Boast to have been our friends	stan3a 5	Forsan olim meminisse Nos juvabit, et vixisse Dignos illis quos fuisse Gloriamur socios.	stan3a 5
<i>Let us rejoice, Maidstonians, and Let us uphold with praises our School, which we pray may flourish For ever.</i>	chorus	<i>Maidstonenses gaudeamus Laudibus et effe ramus Scholam nostram quae oramus Sempiterna floreat</i>	chorus

C. Barton Road 1930 to Present

Facts about the Site

The present building was built on the site generously donated by George Foster Clark- Justice of the Peace & Alderman (member of a borough or county council) of the Borough of Maidstone. He offered to donate 30 acres of his land to build the school on, however the School Governors opted to accept about half, as they were not sure they would be able to afford the upkeep. The Foster Clarks were a local family who had made their money from producing custard powder and jelly. The site was officially opened by Lord Cornwallis in July 1930.



Commemorative Plaque in the Gatehouse

Interesting features of the 1930 school

- Initially there were about 300 students (now over 1200).
- There was no canteen until after WW2; dinners were cooked in the 'old kitchen', now the caretakers room next to the PE Office, and the dinners were served in the Gym.
- Technology was initially in room 25.

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- Until relatively recently the only entrance and exit to the school was through the archway of the Gatehouse. Many lorries and coaches got stuck! You can still see the scratches and grooves in the brickwork.
- The current car park was the main hard court play area.
- Initially the Headmaster had free use of the Headmaster's House and had a maid and gardener; Dr Argent (HM 2009-12) was the first to not live on the site so the house was converted into two upstairs apartments and downstairs offices and stores for the CCF.
- Roman connections were discovered during the building of the new site. Barton Road was part of the Roman road from Rochester, a Roman fort, to the iron mines which the Romans worked in the Weald of Kent (including Staplehurst High Street). Along this road were Roman villas, and one lies under the area between the Gatehouse and the canteen – some excavations were done in 1930 and 1950, but the archaeological site is now covered by tarmac!
- The wooden science lab (room 93) was originally the Scout Hut; the school had its own Scout troop from 1930-1970s.

How did we get the Pavilion?

The school pavilion was built thanks to donations from our Old Maidstonians Society.

Academic success

Between 1930 and 1996, the names of students which graduated to either Cambridge or Oxford University were engraved on panels in the Big Hall. From 1996 onwards, the engraved names indicated the students who attained A grades in their A levels.

Library- Past and Present

The school library used to be where room 1 currently is; with the present rooms 2a, 2b and 2c being the book store area. In 1960 the library transferred to its present location. It is known as the War Memorial library as there is a large, wooden plaque which has the names of the 70 Old Maidstonians who died in World War 2. People can pay their respects there.



Commemorative Plaque in the School Library

The Old Tuck Shop

The current School Uniform shop used to be a small sweet shop, run by the senior students and was so up until the mid 1990s.

A Planning Error

Many people may get the impression that the Grammar School has been here on Barton Road since 1929, because the drainpipes around the school all have 1929 cast on them. In actual fact, the School was not ready until 1930, and the gutters had already been ordered with 1929 on them!



Swimming Pool

The school used to have its own outdoor swimming pool, where the hard courts beyond room 93 are. There still remains a small storeroom of P.E. equipment, which was a chlorinating and pumping house for the pool. It wasn't heated and therefore was only used for a few weeks during the summer. The

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upkeep of the pool was quite expensive and, due to the fact that Maidstone Leisure Centre's swimming facilities were improving, the school decided to use this land for other purposes

Development of the School

Since WWII, many new buildings were built to adjust to the increase of students. In the 1950's, the science labs, which are the current rooms 20, 21, 30, 31 and the Physics Prep room, were created from the cloisters opposite the Big Hall. In 1960 the South Block (current library and small hall, music block, rooms 42-49, room 60) were built as the school now had over 800 students. In 1981, the Technology block and rooms 52-59 were constructed and opened by Sir Rhodes Boyson PC. He was a British educator, author and politician and was knighted in 1987.

In 2000, the old Maidstonian, James Burke, a British broadcaster, science historian, author and television producer, opened the new reception. In 2006, the new canteen, and the History, Maths and Art block were opened. Then in 2009, the Applied Learning Centre was built, followed by the Sixth Form and Food Technology block in 2011.

Preparing for War

As the war clouds gathered from 1938 onwards people started building air raid shelters in preparation for an attack. All public buildings had to have air raid provisions, and therefore, in late 1938 to 1939, an air raid shelter was built under the school. The shelter had zigzag passages, and could hold more than 300 people, allowing lessons to continue as normal.

The school's playing field also contained a *tank trap*, which was a large pit, filled with concrete blocks called *dragon's teeth*, which would stop the caterpillar tracks from moving. This was hidden from site by covering it with turf, strong enough for light vehicles. Also, room 7 was established as a machine gun post in case of the expected German invasion. On the 13th of September 1940, thirty-seven bombs fell in close proximity to the school but the students were all well protected in the air-raid shelter.

A Great Day for MGS Students

At the end of the Second World War, school fees were abolished, meaning that you did not have to pay to embark in Maidstone Grammar School.

HMS Maidstone

HMS Maidstone was a submarine depot ship during World War II. It was built and operational by 5th May 1938. It weighed 8900 tons and had a length of 497ft, a beam of 73ft, and a speed of 17 knots and could hold up to

1167 men. It was used throughout the war and travelled to Gibraltar in

1941 then in 1942 it was based at Algiers harbour. In November 1943 she was assigned to the Eastern fleet. Then she was transferred to Western Australia to operate in the Pacific, returning to Portsmouth in November 1945.

After the war in 1951 it stopped at the Spanish harbour Corunna and this was the first time that a British warship had been in Spain since the end of the Spanish Civil War. Then in 1953 it took part in the fleet review to celebrate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. In October 1969 it was re-



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commissioned for 2,000 troops to be sent to Belfast where in 1971 she was used as a prison ship in operation Demetrius as a place to hold Irish internees without trial, including Gerry Adams. The ship was also famous for 3 IRA prisoners escaping and swimming over 300 yards through icy water to evade army and police. The ship was decommissioned 6 years later on the 23rd May 1978, and the ship's bell was donated to the school and is rung before every Big Hall Assembly to request silence and it announces the arrival of the Headmaster.

A Film Set? Surely Not?

In the 1990's, the school was used for some scenes of 'The Darling Buds of May', a TV series set in the 1950's. The old canteen was used for the Electrical Warehouse and the lower staff room as the tax office. The school was also used for two episodes of Art Attack, also in the 1990's.

Section 2: MGS & War

A. The Boer War and the Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

The Boer War lasted from 11th October 1899-31st May 1902, fought between the British Empire and Dutch speaking Afrikaans. 29 former students of Maidstone Grammar School died in this conflict.

The Boer War, and its initial set-backs, were a major reason for the introduction of a national Cadet Force to train the future officers of the British Army.

Maidstone Grammar School's CCF started in July 1906; experiencing their first summer camp in 1907.



Plaque in memory of the 29 students who lost their lives in the Boer War



The Boer War memorial windows in the Big Hall

There was only one commanding officer who went on that summer camp and that was Capt CG Duffield, the Headmaster of the school at the time. 33 students went to Worthing in Sussex out of 59 students that were in the CCF from the start. In 1948 the CCF divided into three different parts: Navy, Army and the RAF. However it hasn't always been known as the CCF, from 1906-1908 it was known as the Cadet Corps; then from 1908-1940 it was known as Officers Training Corps, from 1941-1948 it was called the Junior Training Corps and Air Training Corps; finally from 1948 to the present day it has been referred to as the Combined Cadet Force(CCF.)



OTC The First Camp Worthing 1907
The Commanding Officer in the centre is
Capt CG Duffield (Headmaster)

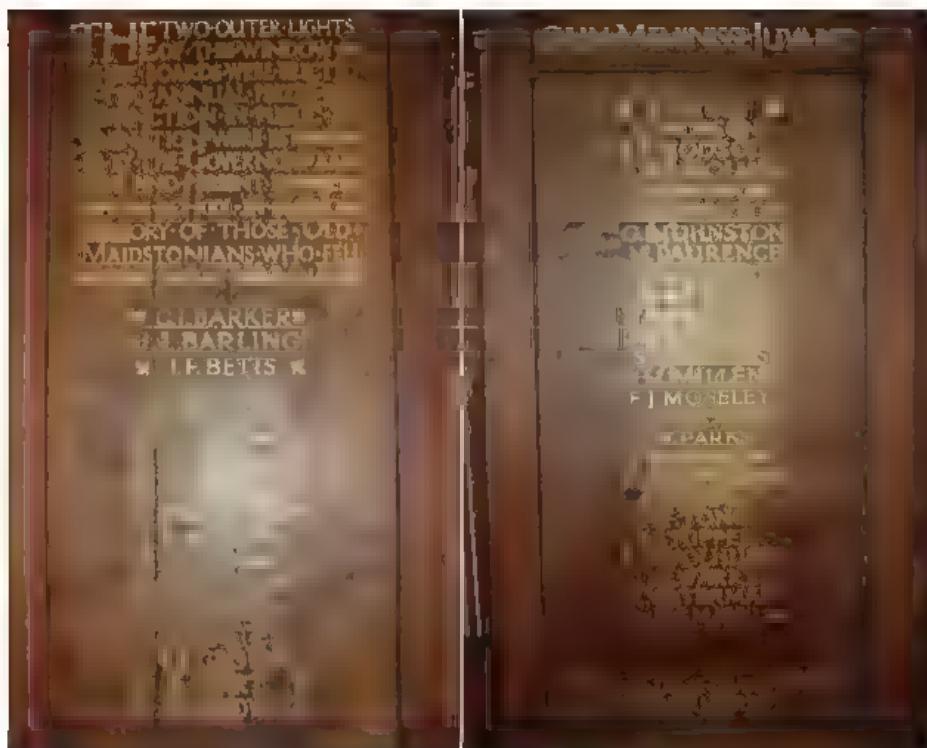
B. World War I (Great War 1914-1918)

How did the War change education in Maidstone and in MGS?

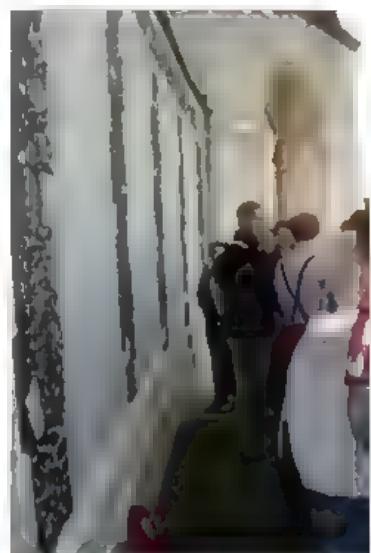
In the Big Hall 43 names of Old Maidstonians who died during the Great War are engraved on 2 panels. Considering the school had an intake on average of about 15-20 students per year, this is the equivalent of about 3 cohorts, but remember that over 3/4m of the 5m British soldiers put into service died.

A Quote from Maidstone Grammar School 1549-1949, a Record.

'By the time of the First World War, there were about 139 students at the Tonbridge Road site. During WWI, the school, like all others, played its part and those who can remember those fateful years can remember too, the many old Maidstonians whose company to-day we should have been so happy to enjoy'.



Wooden Panels in the Big Hall



Tyne Cot Cemetery

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OLD MAIDSTONIANS WHO DIED IN THE GREAT WAR (1914 - 1918)

As listed on the Memorial Board in the Main Hall of Maidstone Grammar School

RANK	NAME	DATE OF DEATH	AGE	REGIMENT	CEMETERY/MEMORIAL	IDENT. REF.
2 nd Lieut	C T Barker	17 March 1916	24	Queen's Own (Royal West Kent)	Bethune Town Cemetery	III K 1
<i>J J. Baring - no details traced so far</i>						
<i>J F Bette - no details traced so far</i>						
2 nd Lieut	I. Blundell	22 July 1916	Unkn	Royal Sussex	Boulogne Communal Cemetery	I F 3
2 nd Lieut	G Boucher	03 July 1916	26	The Buffs (East Kent)	Audley Communal Cemetery	F 41
Lieut	C J Collings	25 July 1919	21	R.A.F.	Ravens' Way Cemetery	6 AA 2
Chief Woker	V Croftcote	29 January 1918	31	R.N.	Lancashire Landing Cemetery	L70
Private	A M Derry	29 October 1916	Unkn	London (Queen Victoria Rifles)	Harrow Cemetery	F 6780
2 nd Lieut	I Denouane	12 October 1917	21	Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders	Peronne British Cemetery	III D 1
2 nd Lieut	R Denouane	07 July 1916	Unkn	Duke of Wellington (West Riding)	Thiepval Memorial	Pier & Pase 6 A
<i>H C Denmill - no details traced so far</i>						
Private	H N Elliott	21 March 1918	30	Lancashire Pioneers	Arras Memorial	Bay 5
<i>J Fleming - no details traced so far</i>						
• Captain	C G Gates	09 April 1917	25	Queen's Own (Royal West Kent)	Poole Chapel, Wimerton	III I 18
2 nd Lieut	J K Ground	19 June 1916	29	Queen's Own (Royal West Kent)	Tannay Farm Cemetery	I D 3
Gunner	C W Hardwick	21 May 1915	Unkn	Royal Field Artillery	Shrapnel Court	Q 8
Sergeant	R Hart	13 October 1915	34	Norfolk	Loos Memorial	Panel 30/31
<i>F M Hills - no details traced so far</i>						
Capt	R C Hobson	18 November 1918	31	Northumberland Fusiliers	Plymouth (Blewett) Cemetery	Church C 7344
<i>G B P Hodson - no details traced so far</i>						
2 nd Lieut	D M S Holmes	04 March 1916	26	Cheshire	Loos Memorial	Panel 49/50
<i>F J Johnson - no details traced so far</i>						
<i>D M Johnson (Captain) - no details traced so far</i>						
Lieut	G B Johnstone	23 October 1918	35	Royal Sussex	Brighton War Cemetery	XII G 6
Sergeant	M Lawrence	16 March 1919	21	Royal Army Service Corps	Vale of Edges Communal Cem	II C 26 *
Captain	J B Matthews	14 February 1917	29	7 th Royal West Kent	site of grave / memorial not listed	
Private	W McVicar	18 July 1917	Unkn	Royal Army Medical Corps	Newport Memorial	
<i>H E Mercer - no details traced so far</i>						
2 nd Lieut	B A Mayes	26 October 1917	Unkn	London (Royal Fusiliers)	Tynecot Memorial	Panel 148-150 *
Private	H L Miller	27 January 1917	Unkn	The Queen's (Royal West Surrey)	Maidstone Cemetery	I R 2
Corporal	F J Monday	01 July 1918	30	Queen's Own (Royal West Kent)	Bapaume Ridge Cemetery (Albert)	I A 15
Sapper	H R Mount	06 May 1915	19	Royal Engineers	Pym (Mewin Gate) Memorial	Panel 9 *
Captain	J W Parks	13 August 1919	24	1st Lancashire	Chichester Cemetery	A 1649
Private	P Robinson	07 October 1916	36	Royal Fusiliers	Thiepval Memorial	Pier & Pase 8 CPA
2 nd Lieut	G Seveall	13 July 1916	21	Queen's Own (Royal West Kent)	Thiepval Memorial	Pier & Pase 11C
<i>F Small - no details traced so far</i>						
Lieut	J L C Sutherland	19 August 1918	30	R.A.F.	Chambres, Metz	402
Private	E H Tolhurst	14 August 1916	19	London (Prince of Wales Rifles)	Marquay British Cemetery	III D 5
Lieut	A F Tong	24 September 1918	29	R.A.F.	Croix-Rouge Military Cemetery	II C 9
Lieut	M Tupper	22 July 1918	26	Royal Fusiliers	Hastings Cemetery	-
Captain	J L Werry	27 April 1917	Unkn	Sherwood Foresters (Notts & D)	Peronne Communal Cemetery	I B 4
<i>R Waterman (Lieut) - no details traced so far</i>						

Somebody who is not included in this list due to an error is – S. Laurence. His name is engraved in the Big Hall along with all the other soldiers listed above.

History of MGS



To pay our respects to all the soldiers who died during the Great War, MGS regularly organise trips to take students to visit Tyne Cot Memorial, the Menin Gate and the Flanders Fields museum in Ypres.



Former MGS student 2nd Lieutenant S.A. Meyers' name is engraved into one of the memorial stones at Tyne Cot Cemetery. When the school visit MGS staff and students lay a wreath underneath his name. We also pay tribute to Old Maidstonian Sapper H.R Mount who is one of the 50,000 names on the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres.

Lieut

G Ormrod

19 September 1918

Unkn Royal Sussex

Cerisy-Gailly Military Cemetery

III J 14

The information has been extracted from the web-site belonging to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and matched to details extracted from the School magazines and journals of that period

Those whose death is after the Armistice (11 November 1918) are assumed to have been wounded beforehand

Unfortunately, a member of the school staff, G. Ormrod, was killed in battle. There is a commemorative plaque in the MGS Staff Room in memory of him.



"Sic Itur Ad Astra" translates as "Thus one goes to the stars".

C. World War II (1939-1945)

Maidstone Grammar School was presiding at Barton Road when World War 2 broke out, in 1939. War had several implications for both students and staff, the most prominent being the ones described in the December 1939 wartime issue of the Maidstonian. It describes the trenches on the field and how it was disfiguring the school. While Maidstone was not suspected to be a high profile target it could come under attack and so the main points where fortified. As well as trenches, tank traps were built, where massive pits were dug and concrete spikes known as



An example of 'Dragons Teeth' tank traps

History of MGS

dragon teeth were placed in the pits, to trap tanks. One of these was discovered when putting in the foundations, for the 1981 building work, where the current technology rooms are.

A common practise as described by an Old Maidstonian, was that in the wartime, before playing any sorts of field games, the field had to be scanned, this meant that the boys would have to line up in a row and check the field for bullet casings that cascaded down during the Battle of Britain roaring above them. With the threat of air attack, air shelters were regularly used and are still under the court and field. The entrance is along the back entrance to the school and is very overgrown and no longer accessible.

With the new invention of aviation warfare, the obvious threat was from the sky.

During the course of the war, about 240 bombs were dropped on Maidstone, killing 53 people (over 60,000 civilians killed nationwide). The nearest bombs to our school fell on the 13th September 1940 where bombs struck the Foster Clark Estate, Greenside, Birch Tree Way and South Park Road.

In December 1939, MGS found themselves sharing the site with the senior members of Alleyn's School, Dulwich, who moved from London for safety reasons. As well as this the war suspended the use of the classic MGS house system, as "it was found the school house had very few seniors". From then on the school was described by its students as having a "ghostly appearance". The daily visits to the air raid shelter, the trenches and tank traps in the field along with the ever obvious military presence made the school a rather dismal place to the few students that were attending at the time. As well as this a student described how the windows had to be taped over with adhesive, to stop the glass flying if the school was attacked from the air, which in turn cast a eerie glow over the classrooms.



Entrance to the school's air raid shelters



The Home Guard training at MGS

While Maidstone was not a high priority target, there was a major fear of German invasion and the army even went as far to install a machine gun post into the room we now know as the IT room 7, as it had ample view over both sides of the field like so.



A main achievement of MGS, was the farm and growing skills displayed to help the war time rationing effort. Rationing was introduced straight after the war was announced and Maidstone Grammar School helped 'Dig for Victory' and in 1940 managed to successfully grow a staggering 2 tonnes of potatoes, one and quarter tons of carrots and a quarter tonne of onions. One of the other events in the 2013 Extended Learning Week is to recreate allotments in the School gardens (see below).



Also in August and September during WW2 many MGS students helped bring in the grain harvest and hops on farms as far away as Marden.

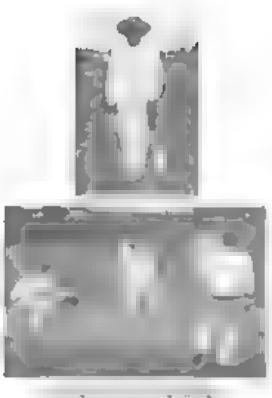
Section 3: MGS & Sport

MGS Sports Team's Greatest Moments

A. Lashings World XI

In 1995 the Lashings World XI played the school's first eleven cricket team. Richie Richardson, former West Indian captain and batting legend, led the Lashings World XI and the game ended in a draw.

On the 12th June 2001 Lashings XI once again played a MGS side consisting staff and students XI. This game was particularly special because pupils were excused from lessons so they could watch the game. However, the second time around Lashings XI came out on top despite Mr Holmes and Mr Walker both getting half centuries. The Lashings side included a host of famous cricketers such as the Jimmy Adams, Junior Murray and Stewart Williams.



B. MGS First XI Football

During the 1999/2000 football season, the First XI team earned a place in the prestigious ESFA's Individual School's Trophy by winning the Kent Cup.

Over 500 MGS supporters made the 5-hour coach journey to West Bromwich Albion's home ground, the Hawthorns, to watch their team play Kingsway School of Cheshire for the right to call themselves the best school team in the country. MGS dominated the majority of the game but Kingsway were kept in the game by their outstanding England U18 goalkeeper, and then they snatched victory with a late, breakaway goal.



C. MGS U15's Rugby

In the 2004/2005 rugby season, the MGS U15 rugby team represented the school at Twickenham, arguably the most prestigious rugby stadium in the world. The Daily Mail Cup consists of the best rugby schools nationwide, and it was a great achievement that MGS got through to the final of the Plate Competition which took place on the 23rd March 2005. MGS had a strong victory beating Oakham 33-7. The standout players for our team were Nick Van Mol and Joe Bedford who both scored two tries. This was a memorable occasion for the MGS players and the hundreds of spectators.



Current MGS sporting stars

In MGS there are currently many talented sportsmen who may become part of the schools sporting history. They seem to be on the way to becoming stars in their given field.

George Duggan is a British cross country winner and national middle distance runner, indeed he has just set the second fastest 1500m time (3m52s) in his age group.



Ruben Sammut left MGS at the end of year 9 to join Chelsea FC boarding academy so that he can pursue a football career and keep his academic studies going.



Sam Vizard is a talented rugby player who plays for Saracens and Kent.



Emily Royer is a sixth former at the school. She has a golf handicap of 2 and is one of the top 5 golfers in Britain in her age range.

Section 4: MGS & Drama

The school has a strong tradition in Drama, and this all started in 1922 when the school performed their first production, Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. Many productions followed bringing much enjoyment, indeed at times the school used to perform two plays a year (summer and winter). Actors, Artists, Musicians have all been crucial in creating a great Drama heritage at MGS.

Here is a list of plays performed since the very first one in 1922:

PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

1922	TWELFTH NIGHT	1946	HENRY V
1923	THE MERCHANT OF VENICE	1947	TWELFTH NIGHT
1924	THE TEMPEST	1948	AS YOU LIKE IT
1925	AS YOU LIKE IT	1949	THE WINTER'S TALE ONE DAY WE SHALL REMEMBER
1926	MACBETH	1951	KING JOHN THE TEMPEST
1928	THE RIVALS	1952	THE COMEDY OF ERRORS ANTIGONE
1932	THE TAMING OF THE SHREW	1953	MACBETH
1933	HENRY IV -PART 1	1954	ROMEO AND JULIET
1934	MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING	1955	HAMLET
1935	A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM	1956	JULIUS CAESAR
1936	ROMEO AND JULIET	1957	THE TAMING OF THE SHREW
1937	THE KNIGHT OF THE BURNING PESTLE	1958	THE MERCHANT OF VENICE
1938	THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR	1959	THE ALCHEMIST
1939	JULIUS CAESAR	1961	KING RICHARD II THE WINTER'S TALE
1944	ANDROCLES AND THE LION	1962	MACBETH
1945	THE MERCHANT OF VENICE		

KENT MESSENGER MAIDSTONE

This is the list from 1967 to 2009; some are missing as no records were found:

1960-'Tobias and the Angel' by James Bridie

1963-'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare

1966-'Julius Caesar' by William Shakespeare

1967-'Hamlet' by William Shakespeare and 'Oliver Twist' by Charles Dickens

1972-'The Dyskolos' from Greek Mythology

1975-'Waiting for Godot' by Samuel Beckett, 'The Crucible' by Arthur Miller and 'Cinderella and the Magic Lamp' by Oscar Hammerstein II

1978-'A Man For All Seasons' by Robert Bolt

1979-'The Physicists' by Friedrich Dürrenmatt, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' by William Shakespeare and 'Toad of Toad Hall' by A.A. Milne

1980-'Alice in Wonderland' by Lewis Carroll and 'King Lear' by William Shakespeare

1981-'The Comedy of Errors' by William Shakespeare, 'The Doctor and the Devils'

by Dylan Thomas, 'The Taming of the Shrew' and 'Noble Sentiments' by William Shakespeare

1982-'Julius Caesar' by William Shakespeare, 'Murder in the Red Barn' by Randall Faye and 'The Importance of Being Earnest' by Oscar Wilde

1983-'Henry IV Part 2' by William Shakespeare, 'Sour Grapes' by Larry David, 'Real Inspector Hound' by Tom Stoppard and 'Romeo and Juliet' by William Shakespeare

1984-'Serjeant Musgrave's Dance' by John Arden



William Shakespeare

History of MGS

1985-'The Gondoliers' by Gilbert and Sullivan
1986-'Twelfth Night' by William Shakespeare
1988-'Hamlet' by William Shakespeare
1990-'Merchant of Venice' by William Shakespeare
1991-'Dream Palace' by James Purdy and 'King Lear' by William Shakespeare
1992-'Noises Off' by Andrew Nichol
1993-'Measure for Measure' by William Shakespeare
1994-'Oliver Twist' by Charles Dickens
1995-'Prima Donna' by Eugene Ionesco and 'The Real Inspector Hound' by Tom Stoppard
1996-'The Wizard of Oz' by L. Frank Baum
1997-'The Importance of Being Earnest' by Oscar Wilde
1999-'Lord of the Flies' by William Golding who was a former teacher at MGS of English and Music (1938-40)
2000-'Me And My Girl' by L'Arthur Rose and Douglas Furber
2001-'Black Coffee' and 'The Queen of Crime' both by Agatha Christie
2003-'Scrooge' by Charles Dickens
2004-'Les Misérables' by Claude-Michel Schönberg
2006-'West Side Story' by Arthur Laurents
2007-'Little Shop of Horrors' by Howard Ashman
2009-'We Will Rock You' by Queen and Ben Elton and 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn' by Mark Twain
2011-'Twelfth Night' by William Shakespeare
2012-'Oh What A Lovely War' by Charles Chilton



Charles Dickens



Oscar Wilde

Section 5: Distinguished Old Maidstonians

A. The Arts

Dan Abnett

Dan Abnett was born in 1965. He is a renowned comic book writer, having worked for DC comics.



William Alexander

William Alexander (1767-1816) was a famous artist of his time, a student of the famous artist Joshua Reynolds, and the painter of the MGS Corpus Christi School in 1780.



Edmund Blunden

Edmund Blunden (1896-1874) was a famous writer and poet. *Choice or Chance* and *Shells by a Stream* were some of his famous poetry collections. He was in the trenches at Ypres and Somme.



Julius Brenchley

Julius Brenchley (1816-1873) was a passionate collector of art, ethnography (exploring culture) and natural history. He was an explorer of the world and he sent his artefacts and discoveries home; there is a large display about him and his findings at Maidstone Museum.



James Walter Butler

James Walter Butler was born in 1931. He is a famous sculptor and has an MBE for his artwork.



Daniel Blythe

Daniel Blythe was born in 1969 and is a writer of dark mystery books whose works include *Losing Faith* and *The Cut*.



David Chater

David Chater was born in 1953. He is an award-winning correspondent/journalist with more than 35 years' experience in international television news.



Frank Finn

Frank Finn (1868-1932) was a British Ornithologist, who wrote many works including *Birds of Calcutta* (1901), *The Making of Species* (1909) and *Eggs and Nests of British Birds* (1910).



Sir William Gerald Golding

Sir William Gerald Golding (1911-1993) taught at MGS 1938-40. He is most well known for writing the 'Lord of the Flies', in 1954, as well as many other novels.



James Hillier

James Hillier was born in 1973. He is a well known actor and has been in productions like: 'Great Expectations', 'Where Were We', 'Long Time Dead' and 'All the King's Men'.



Philip Gordon Langridge

Philip Langridge (1939-2010) was a singer who performed in many events, including the operas of Claudio Monteverdi and Mozart.



Kevin Loader

Kevin Loader is one of the U.K.'s most established film producers. He was a double BAFTA Award nominee in 2010: *In the Loop* and *Nowhere Boy*.



Shaun McKenna

Shaun McKenna (born in 1957) is an English dramatist, lyricist and screenwriter. He has written many theatre performances, including *Killing Camille* and an adaptation of *How Green was my Valley*. He went on to write TV shows like *The Crooked Man* for ITV.



Stuart Miles

Stuart Miles (born in 1969) is television presenter, who worked on the children's program *Blue Peter*. His last appearance on the show was 21st June 1999.



Philip Moore

Philip Moore (born in 1943) is a composer and organist, specialising in church music.



John Orrell

John Orrell (1934-2003) was an author, theatre historian and English professor at the University of Alberta. He wrote and presented documentaries for CBC Television on a wide range of subjects. He also assisted as advisor on the reconstruction of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.



Tom Riley

Tom Riley (born in 1981) is a film, television and theatre actor. Some of his well known performances include St Trinian's II: The Legend of Fritton's Gold, Return to House on Haunted Hill, Monroe and Da Vinci's Demons.



Christopher Smart

Christopher Smart (1722-1771) was an English poet and a great contributor to two popular English magazines. His most popular works include A Song to David and Jubilate Agno.



Shaun Williamson

Shaun Williamson (born in 1965) is an actor, singer, media personality and presenter. He has appeared in films and TV shows like Daylight Robbery, Scoop and The Invention of Lying.



Yeborobo

Yeborobo are a rock/punk band currently based in London, playing gigs, since 2003. The band members are Andrew Kerr, Rob Bidder, Russell Bailey, Matthew Rains, Sophie Simpson and Sam Eden Green, some being Old Maidstonians.



B. The Sporting World

David Flatman

David Luke Flatman (born in 1980) is a former Rugby Player. Before his retirement in 2012 he was a prop for Bath and England.



Steven Haworth

Steven Haworth (Nigel McGuinness) was born in 1976. He is distinguished for being a professional British wrestler and won the ROH Pure Championship, ROH World Championship, King of Europe Cup and the 1PW Openweight Championship.



Anthony Whiteman

Anthony Whiteman (born 1971) was a successful athlete who attended Maidstone Grammar school, and then he then went on to become an international runner representing Great Britain in the 1996 and 2000 Olympics in the 1500 metres.



Thomas William Parsons

Thomas William Parsons (born in 1987) is a Cricketer who has played for Hampshire 2nd XI, Kent, Kent 2nd XI and Loughborough MCCU.



Frank Sando

Frank Dennis Sando (1931-2012). He was an international and Olympic athlete. For cross country, he won two gold medals, three silvers and a bronze. In 10,000m he won a single bronze in the European Championships.



C. Politics, Commerce and Industry



Dr Richard Beeching

Richard Beeching (1913-1985), who was also known as Baron Beeching, was a physicist and an engineer, who became Chairman of British Railways and infamous for his report which axed many uneconomic railway lines.



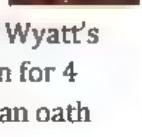
Sir Samuel Egerton Brydges

Samuel Egerton Brydges (1762-1837) had a successful parliamentary career as a Maidstone MP.



Francis Fane, 1st Earl of Westmorland, KB

Francis Fane (1580-1629) was a Politician and Landowner who sat in the House of Commons from 1601 to 1624.



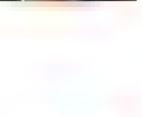
Thomas Fane

Thomas Fane (1510-1589) was a Landowner and High Sheriff. After his education at MGS, Fane who was a committed Protestant was convicted of treason in 1554 for his involvement in Wyatt's Rebellion and he was sentenced to death. After he had been imprisoned in the Tower of London for 4 months he was pardoned by Queen Mary on account of his youth and on the condition he took an oath of loyalty. He later went on to become High Sheriff of Kent and was knighted in 1573.



Nick Gibb:

Nicolas John Gibb (born in 1960) is a Conservative party MP representing Bognor Regis and Littlehampton becoming the school's minister in 2010.



Sir Jack Hughes

Jack Hughes was chairman from the Bracknell development cooperation from 1971-1982.



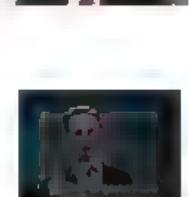
Tom Mullarkey

In 2006, Tom Mullarkey became the Chief Executive of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. He has been awarded an MBE.



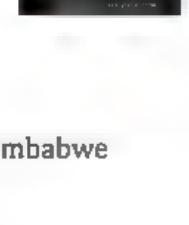
Philip Wynn Owen

Philip Owen is currently the interim Permanent Secretary for the Department of Energy and Climate Change. Prior to this he was Director General of the International Climate Change and Energy Efficiency group. He is also Deputy Chairman and non-executive director for the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust.



John Pugh

John Pugh (born 1948) Has been a Liberal Democrat MP for Southport since 2001. Since 2010 he has been the Co-Chair of the Liberal Democratic Parliamentary Committee for Health and Social Care.



Roderick Pullen

Roderick Pullen was the High Commissioner to Ghana from 2000-04, and ambassador to Zimbabwe from 2004-06.

Adam Sampson

Adam Sampson is the Legal Ombudsman, and before that was the Chief Executive of Shelter, the country's leading housing and homelessness charity.



Mark Watts

Mark Watts (born in 1964) is a former Labour MEP having represented South East England from 1994 to 2000 and is now a public affairs lobbyist and public relations adviser.



Michael Wilson

Michael Wilson left MGS in 1971, and he is currently Director of the Sainsbury Wing of the National Gallery in London.

D. Military

James Gambier

James Gambier (1756-1833) was an Admiral of the Royal Navy. He gained public distinction for his part in the Glorious First of June in 1794, part of the French Revolutionary Wars.



Philip Hedgeland

Vice Air Marshal Philip Hedgeland (1922-2009), was an air radar specialist, and developed and helped make the H2S radar, during WWII. From 1966 to 1967 he was the station commander at RAF Stanbridge. He had been awarded an MBE in 1948, an OBE in 1957, and a CB in 1977.



Timothy Jenner

Jenner joined the Royal Air Force in 1967. He went on to be Station Commander of RAF Shawbury in 1987, Deputy Director of Air Force Plans in 1990 and Director of Defence Programmes in 1992. His final appointments were as Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Strike Command in 1998 and as Commander of the Combined Air Operations Centre in 2000 before he retired in 2001.

Flight Lt. Lloyd Morgan

Flight Lt. Lloyd Morgan (1920-2013), after his education at MGS, he soon enlisted in the RAF in March 1940 by the end of September in 1941 he had carried out over 26 patrols. He was shortly after promoted to flight lieutenant and had a very successful war record.



Frederick Dobson Middleton

Frederick Dobson Middleton (1825-1898) was commissioned into the 58th Regiment of Foot in 1842. He served in the New Zealand Wars. He went on to be Commandant of the Royal Military College Sandhurst in 1879. In 1885 the North-West Rebellion took place and Middleton had to respond. For his service in the war, Middleton was knighted by Queen Victoria in 1885. He also received the thanks of Parliament and the sum of £20,000.



E. Religion / Academia

Very Reverend Peter Atkinson

Peter Gordon Atkinson (born 1952) is the current Dean of Worcester, and obtained his first position in the church in 1980, as a curacy in Clapham. Soon after he was Priest-in-Charge of St. Mary and then Rector of Holy Trinity, shortly he was promoted to canon residentiary at Chichester Cathedral where he was then elevated to his deanery.



David Atkinson

David John Atkinson was born 5 September 1943 is the former Bishop of Thetford. After a short career as a chemistry teacher he was ordained in 1973. From 1977 was Chaplain (and a Fellow) of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and part-time Lecturer at Wycliffe Hall. In 2009 he became an Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Southwark and retired in 2009.



Leo Avery

Leo Avery (born 1938) became a professional priest in 1969. He returned from Rome after studying Pontifical Biblical Institute, to teach scripture to monks. He died of illness on 4th July 1996.



James Burke

James Burke (born 1936) is a former host and co-host of several programmes in the Science and Features Department of the BBC. He was BBC television's science anchorman and chief reporter for the Project Apollo missions, as well as the main presenter of the BBC's coverage of the first moon landing in 1969.



Peter Day

Peter Day (born in 1938) went to Oxford University after MGS and has become a leading chemist.



Sir Andrew William Dilnot

Andrew Dilnot (born in 1960) is an economist and broadcaster; he went to the University of Oxford. He has been awarded a CBE for his works.

Bob Evens

Bob Evens full name is Robert John Scott Evens. He was born on the 29th May 1947 and he is an English Anglican churchman. He was ordained in 1977 and became a priest in 1978.



George Harris

George Harris (1794-1859) was a Unitarian Minister. He was born in Maidstone, and became one of the founders of the Scottish Unitarian Association in 1813 and spent a lot of his time establishing Unitarian churches.



Peter Heather

Peter Heather (born in 1960) was a historian on the Middle Ages and late antiquity. He is currently a Professor of the Medieval Ages at King's College in London.

Geoffrey Alan Hosking

Geoffrey Hosking was born on the 28th April 1942 and he's a historian on Russia and the Soviet Union. He taught himself Russian as a teenager, and he has written many books on Russia and the Soviet Union.

Paul Lewis

Paul Lewis became a broadcaster and professional journalist after winning a amateur prize in 1986. He writes extensively about the economy and is a regular guest on BBC Breakfast, News Channel, and other radio 4 programmes. He often assists MGS with its BBC Schools Report.



William Morfill

William Morfill (1834-1909) was a Professor of Russian and other Slavonic languages at Oxford University.



John Denis Martin Nunn

John Nunn (born in 1955) is famous for his very high ranking in chess; at an early age he became one of the Top Ten in the Britain. He is a three time world champion for chess problem solving.



Leslie Parris

The art historian Leslie Parris (1942-2000) was, for 35 years, at the Tate Gallery, one of the principal custodians of the most comprehensive collection of the country's art. After Maidstone Grammar School, where he was inspired by his history teacher, Leslie went to the Courtauld Institute in London.



Ivan Roots

Ivan Roots (born in 1920) is a historian who has written many history books and reviews. He went to Oxford University in 1938 and in 1941 completed a Modern History final honours degree. One of his well known books is *The Great Rebellion – 1642-1660*.



Arthur Royle

Arthur Royle (1895-1973) was a famous priest in the Church of England. He was the Archdeacon of Huntingdon from 1954-1965.



Professor William Saunders

William Saunders is a professor of Endodontontology and honorary consultant in Restorative dentistry.



Peter Tame

Dr Peter Tame translated a number of Robert Brasillach's works into English, including his memoirs of inter-war Paris (and France), *Notre avant-guerre (Before the War)*, published by Edwin Mellen Press, 2002). He is Vice-Président of the Association des Amis de Robert Brasillach (Geneva) and is also a member of the Conseil d'Administration of the AIAM (Amitiés Internationales d'André Malraux). He is a Reader at Queen's University, Belfast.



Martin Warner

Martin Warner (born in 1958) is an Anglican bishop of England. He is the Bishop of Chichester.



Section 6: In Memoriam

A. Students

John Stern

MGS Student 1991-1996

John Stern attended MGS 1991 – 1996. He was a very talented student who died in tragic circumstances in his first year of university at the age of 18.

"There are not enough words to do John justice" a quote from Ben Elcomb, one of John Stern's best friends. The quote was taken from the 1998 Maidstonian.



Neil Ian Suitters

MGS Student 1996-1998

Neil Ian Suitters, born on 30th August 1985, sadly passed away on 16th August 1998 following a tragic accident while on a family holiday. In an article (in the Maidstonian of 1999) written to pay respect to Neil, Mr Lehec (History teacher and Head of Year) talks about Neil as popular, funny and an excellent sportsman. He also lists Neil's favourite pastimes which were television, computers, discos, bike-riding, tennis and football, but biggest of all- cricket. Neil is described as a fast bowler with a strong determination to win. Neil will be remembered with great fondness by everybody who was acquainted with him.

The Neil Suitters Award was donated by Ian and Sally Suitters and is awarded at the Lower School Speech Day each year, to the boy who gives his absolute best in everything he does.

Ben de Garis

MGS Student 1993-1999

A true inspiration, Ben de Garis sadly passed away in 1999 at the age of 18. He joined the MGS community in 1993 and faced his cancer of the lymph glands with stoicism and humour. During his illness he received chemotherapy and radiotherapy at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London. He passed away a few days before he was due to receive his A-Level results, in which he attained excellent grades in all subjects.

As a 13 year old, he used his artistic talent to create a figure cartoon which would appeal to other young sufferers of Hodgkin's Lymphoma. His concept was Captain Chemo, a cancer busting super hero, who starred in The Adventures of Captain Chemo. Ben was delighted when his idea was developed into a booklet which was distributed by the United Kingdom Children's Cancer Study Group. Ben was unable to attend school at MGS full time, because of his illness, therefore he spent his time designing something that could help other children overcome "an extremely anxious period of their lives".

The Adventures of Captain Chemo cartoons were adapted into a website and an interactive computer game, which involves Captain Chemo and Chemo Command trying to find the answers to questions about cancer. Ben's parents, Paul and Maxine, were delighted with the developments in the game and believe that, "Ben would have enjoyed zapping the cancer cells".

The search for ways to eradicate cancer continues. In the meantime, the memory of Ben de Garis lives on as his creation, Captain Chemo, battles with one of the world's biggest killers.



Nigel Morton

MGS Student 1983-1985

Nigel Morton died on the 2nd July 2009 when his tornado aircraft crashed over Scotland. He came to MGS during the years 1983-1985 and then went on to become a flight Lieutenant of the 43 squadron; he logged over 3000 hours of flying Tornado's.



Ben Babington-Browne

MGS Student 1993-2000



Ben Babington-Browne was a student at Maidstone Grammar School; he was deputy school captain and he left the school in 2000 to join the Army. Ben fought in the Iraq and Afghan wars; he was 27 years old when he died in 2009 in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan. Lt. Col. Andrew Noble, commanding officer of the Royal Engineers, said Ben was "an outstanding officer" with "an extremely bright future".

"It is hard to accept that such a shining light has gone from this world".

These inspirational Maidstonians will never be forgotten by the people in the MGS Community.

B. Staff who died whilst in service at MGS



Alex Stewart

Alex Stewart was a student at MGS who returned to be a P.E. Teacher from 1942 – 1972. He was a very dedicated teacher, and an able Rugby referee. He took up the burden of being the investigator of school 'crimes' – he would always make sure justice was served. However, he would always help the offender – not to escape his punishment – but to be brave enough to face it. Unfortunately, Alex Stewart died unexpectedly in August 1972. There is a memorial plaque by the entrance of the Sports Hall (which is officially called the Stewart Sports Hall).



David Smith

David Mitchell Smith was an English teacher who taught at MGS from 1977 to 1991. He showed passion for his subject and the ability to evoke an enthusiastic response from his pupils. He edited 'The Maidstonian' for many years and regularly succeeded in extracting from his editorial team a publication which was attractive, informative and entertaining. He was also very much involved in MGS Drama and always took a leading role in the Staff pantomime. The shock of his tragic death devastated the school, boys and staff alike.



Jan Powney

Janetta Powney first came to the school in 1985 as the accounts clerk. Her work brought her into contact with everybody and she would not hesitate to offer her help to solve problems. In March 1995, Jan was diagnosed as having an aggressive form of cancer so that surgical treatment was not an option and she sadly passed away at her home on 10th September 1995.



Mr Jean-Marie Sanfourche



Mr Sanfourche taught at the school from the autumn of 1973, until he died on the 9th October 2008. He always looked for the best in his students and appreciated those who put in maximum effort. He was more than just a teacher; he was a fantastic mentor but most importantly he was a friend and that his door would always be open so that you could talk to him at anytime. Hours after the school had heard of his passing a facebook group had already started so people could pay their respects to him

and the word that came up the most was 'legend'. The French Tricolore flew at half-mast over the gatehouse on the day of his funeral.



Stuart Smith

Stuart Smith started work at the school in 2007 as a Supply Teacher and he made such a positive impression that he was soon taken on full time, and he quickly became a very popular teacher and form tutor. His personal love was musical theatre, and he was desperate for Drama to be taught at MGS, and with help from Mrs Burns, he introduced the Year 9 Drama curriculum. Tragically, he developed cancer, and died in September 2010.



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